Ass. Theo Sem. March 8th, 51

Dear Brethren

We received your very welcome letter a short time since, and according to your request, we write in answer, so that you can receive our communication, before the close of the present session. The renewal of a correspondence, between our respective societies, which has for some years been interrupted, is to us a source of much gratification. Why it was that so long a time passed, without any communication between us, we know not; Some time previous to the reception of your letter, our society endeavored to obtain some information with regard to the matter, but from neglect in keeping a record of our correspondence, during the greater part of that ~~time~~ time, we could not tell whether we were in the fault, or you having found our correspondence unprofitable had ceased to write. But it being again renewed, we earnestly indulge the hope, that such an interruption in our intercourse, shall not again occur. Engaged as we are, in seeking to know how we may best promote the interests of a common cause, it surely does not become us to withhold from each other the benefit of mutual sympathy and encouragement. This especially should not be so in a time like the present, when the Archenemy is using every endeavor to corrupt the truths of the gospel and thus weaken

their influence. Our society is but small, although comprising the greater number of our students. Our whole number in attendance at the Seminary never has exceeded forty, and at the present time, owing to a change in our sessions, by which two classes were licensed the past year, it is smaller than usual. The number in the Senior class is eleven. In what part of the vineyard they may be called to labor, is yet a matter of uncertainty to them all, for according to a rule of our church licentiates must spend at least one year, under the direction of Synod either in performing the duties of the Home missionary or laboring among our vacant congregations. The missionary operations of our church, are, as you are most likely aware limited. They have been chiefly confined to destitute portions of our own land. We have however with regard to these home missions particularly reason to believe that she has not labored in vain, but that the seed sown, has in many instances fallen on good ground and springing up has brought forth fruit. Several of the stations in our Western States have, during the past year, obtained a settled ministry among them; in most cases the Board of H. M. agreeing to assist them for a short period. Our church has not however altogether neglected the Foreign field, although the exertions that she has made in it, have not been such as the calls of her Lord and Master demanded of her.

For some years as you are doubtless aware she has had a station in the isle of Trinidad, near the South American coast

The success which has attended the labors of her missionaries in this place, although perhaps as great as under the circumstances should have been expected, has not been such as the enthusiastic and ardent friend of the cause desired, and looked for. Twice when every thing betokened success to the mission, did death enter the little band who were engaged in speaking to the heathen of a Saviors love. One after another of those who were left, or of those who were sent to take the places of the dead, have in the Providence of God seen it their duty to withdraw from the field, until at the present time our church is without a single representative in the island, to break to its famishing inhabitants the bread of life. We trust however that it shall not remain so, and that but a short time will elapse, ere the places now vacant will be filled by others of her number, commissioned to preach 'the good tidings of great joy'. Revs. W. H. Andrew & I. Scott are the persons who have received the appointment; Bro. Andrew has signified his acceptance of the appointment, and it is hoped that both of them will start in the course of a few weeks.

But while many of God's dealings with us in regard to this mission have been dark and mysterious, we have not been left without ground of encouragement, to hope that upon more than one immortal soul, the light of life has dawned, from whom the rays of the Sun of righteousness may be reflected, warming and enlivening the hearts of others now cold and dead in sin

Our synod at its last meeting resolved upon establishing a missionary station in Oregon. Our missionaries. Revs Jas P. Miller & S. Irvine have not yet sailed, but expect to do so very shortly. What success they shall have in this far off part of our own land in bursting asunder the chains of delusion, and superstition which the God of this world has thrown around its inhabitants God, who only can give this success, knows; but surely we think from no place, where exists a human being, does the Macedonian cry come, more loudly, more earnestly than this. In concluding Dear Brethren we would unite with you in prayer to him, who quickeneth the heart, that we all may receive more and more of a missionary spirit. It was that the might be a missionary that Christ has formed a Church here upon earth. This was the work in which he himself was engaged while here, and the more of this spirit we attain, the more nearly will we be conformed to his image. We mean a true missionary spirit, one which leads us to depend upon God alone for strength and success, and which makes us have the glory of God the primary end in all that we undertake. But how little of this spirit, is there manifested by us, how prone are we to substitute carnal ease, and enjoyment for the glory of God. But we earnestly indulge the hope, that the Church is awakening from her spiritual slumber, that the time is not far distant when all the true followers of Christ, shall shake off the remains of that sluggish spirit, which has so long led them to quiet conscience with the excuse of Israel. "The time has not come, the time when the Lords house should be built". We hope that even now a new era is dawning upon the church, and that soon the missionary spirit of the first Christians shall be infused into the hearts of all Gods professing people, so that wherever they go, they may be preaching the word. With assurance of our regard, and hoping to hear from you soon, we are yours Brethren in Christ

Sec. R. Rankin
J. S. Maughlin } Com. of Correspondence.

To the Sec. of Ing. Princeton N.J.)